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FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT FOR  
DR. KISSINGER

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By SW NARA Date 7/9/02

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Peking 10

July 8, 1973

TO: Henry Kissinger

FROM: David Bruce

SUBJECT: Congressional Delegation

1. You should be aware of the latest in series of faupas committed by Senator Magnuson which oft Peking. Al Jenkins informs me that at the banquet given July 7 by the Congressmen for their hosts of the Chinese Peoples Institute for Foreign Affairs, at which Al was present and personally observed the Senators performance, Senator Magnuson embarked on the subject of Taiwan. His thesis was that the large number of Taiwanese on Taiwan has been foolish to allow themselves to be taken over by a small number of people from the China mainland, and if the Taiwans had worked together they could have prevented this established and independent Taiwan. He did not specifically speak favorably of an independent Taiwan under present circumstances, but he must have left the impression with his Chinese table companion that this was in his mind. The Chinese were of course too polite to respond. Assistant Foreign Minister Yang Wen-chin did his best to change the subject by entering into a long discourse on Chinese history. In addition the Senator asked how the Generalissimo and his followers were transported from the mainland to Taiwan. Quote-Was it by boat?-Unquote he inquired, Quote-No-Unquote, answered his guest of honor, "it was by American airplanes."

2. Senator Magnuson further distinguished himself during his stay here by directing Al Jenkins as his first job to get him a box of Havana cigars at the Cuban Embassy. Al rightly said that he did not believe it proper for a member of the Foreign Service to contact the embassy of a country with which they did not maintain diplomatic relations, and the Senator would have to do so himself. Magnuson remarked that State Department officers paid too much attention to protocol. Then he let the matter drop. It is a pity the Senator did not see the Cuban Embassy here. On the outside wall is a glassed-in cabinet where in it is placed a photograph of a skull with one eye socket covered by the American flag. Incidentally, it seems Mrs. Magnuson had a happy urge to pin small U.S. flags on the

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Chinese guests at the Fourth of July reception but was dissuaded from doing so.

3. The Congressional party left Peking on the morning of July 8 Peking time for Sian, where any further affronts to Chinese sensitivity will of necessity be on a local level. I leave it to your good judgement as to whether any fence-mending with the Chinese is in order, either in Peking or in Washington. As one USLO officer said, the Chinese have got to get used to seeing us with our warts, and the process is now certainly well under way.

4. Warm regards.

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